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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1915

**THE Y. M. C. A. CANVASS**

With its 1,348 new members, gained in its six-day membership campaign, the total enrollment of the Washington Y. M. C. A. now is 3,805. This is the largest membership in any association in this country in city approximating Washington's size save the Seattle and Portland, Ore., associations.

The membership campaign of the Washington association has been notable, not only for its success in getting members, but for the distinguished list of men who have aided its cause. No other Y. M. C. A. has ever been able to command in a single week the President of the United States and three members of his Cabinet to aid in an effort of this sort.

But equal credit should be given to the dozens of Washington business men who gave unstinted effort and time during the past week. Judge Walter W. Warwick, assistant comptroller of the Treasury, who was general chairman, and the division chairmen, Holcombe G. Johnson, H. S. Omohundro, Edmund S. Wolfe, Arthur D. Call and Grant Leet, represent the type of men who also served as captains and members of the teams. For such a work these men could not have been engaged for money, but they responded loyally to this bit of community service for which Washington should be proud.

**BUYING NEUTRAL SHIPS**

If it is true that Mr. Wilson, in the execution of his ship purchase policy, does not intend to buy or use any vessel of a belligerent, then it is not to be gained that there is and will be no need for him to consult the purpose or consider the views of any foreign power at peace or at war. It is an indisputable American right to buy and use neutral ships; nobody on earth will challenge it.

Yet if this is the Wilson program, then there still remain serious questions, not as regards foreign governments at war, but as regards the possible success of this plan. They are:

1. Where, when every neutral ship that is seaworthy enough to keep afloat can earn her value in a single voyage by carrying a cargo for her present owners, can Mr. Wilson buy at anything but a prohibitive cost neutral vessels?
2. How can ships bought at from two to ten times their normal value and operated at much heavier crew cost than any foreign ships that sail the seas ever become profitable or even compete for business with such foreign ships except at a ruinous drain on the United States Treasury, which must foot unlimited losses?
3. Threatened with bankruptcy which prefaces Government bond issues and double and even triple taxation of the American people to meet the deficit already growing prodigiously, where is the Treasury going to get the money to pour into the hulks of such a Wilson merchant marine?

**BUY-A-BALE RELIEF**

A clever means of obtaining bandages and absorbent cotton has been devised by the War Relief Committee. While cotton exports have been going out with a rush—190,000 bales in two days—arrangements have been made with a large mill to exchange the manufactured articles for bales of cotton purchased in the recent trend and melancholy buy-a-bale movement.

The bales, of course, are to be obtained gratis; and already, it is reported, the scheme has worked so successfully that "hundreds of dollars of material has been received in exchange for bales donated in response to personal appeals."

Thus endeth happily, it seems, the pleasant fiction that buying single bales of cotton at charity bazaar prices was a sound investment undertaking. The movement has had an outcome which, if not relieving the embarrassed South of its surplus cotton, as there never was the slightest chance of its doing, is at least carrying out to some degree, if in another direction, the general philanthropic sense of the movement.

It was philanthropic impulse which led men to purchase each his little bale. We have no doubt that were deductions for charitable expenditures permitted many a man's income tax return would include a credit of \$50 "contributed to the South." These same men might hesitate at \$50 in hard currency for the war relief committee; but "Won't you give your bale?" may be a different, almost an appealing, proposition.

In what good may come to the war sufferers from the buy-a-bale fiasco there may be some comfort to the South out of an emotional crusade which depressed the price of cotton abnormally by insisting to buyers that there was no bottom to its value this side of zero.

**WHEAT AT \$1.65**

Wheat sold at \$1.65 in Chicago yesterday and at corresponding figures in the other markets of the country. There is always, in such circumstances, a magalomanic disposition to peg out a claim on yet higher prices, and \$2 wheat is being talked about with a good deal of insistence and some reason. The world has seen wheat go to \$2 and even higher on various occasions as a result of war conditions; and never were such war conditions faced as those of today.

England and Germany are both engaged now in a desperate phase of the effort by each to starve the other. One of the illogical market conditions is that the market took a violent turn upward just at the time and by reason of the raid by German submarines in the Irish sea. It is easy enough to understand why increasing difficulty of getting wheat across the ocean should make its price go up in Liverpool; but it is not at all plain that added difficulty in getting wheat out of this country ought to make its price higher here. However, so completely does the foreign market dominate the American, that Liverpool can make prices for our wheat even when it foresees the possibility that it may not be able to take it from us.

Italy continues a huge buyer, with increasing indications that she will plunge into the war before the spring campaign is fairly on. That would probably bring in Roumania; and Roumania is a great wheat-growing country.

The complications regarding shipping rights continue to increase. Germany has given notice that food supplies will be taken over and doled out by the government; and Britain retaliates by declaring that foodstuffs of all kind destined to Germany will have to be regarded hereafter as conditional contraband of war. Conditional contraband means that it will be held up if it can be shown to be destined for government and military use. The German government replies that imported grains will not be brought under the confiscation order; they will be allowed to go to and be controlled by the private consignees. But even if that rule could be enforced in the most literal way, the fact that the government was controlling all domestic supplies would practically establish the conditions and prices of the imported stuff. If the government is handling domestic supplies, then every bushel of private importation must ease the pressure on the government supplies, and serve the government purpose practically as if the importation were made by the government itself. Thus Britain seems to be justified in assuming that any foods destined for Germany constitute a potential strengthening of the German economic and military posture.

In this connection the horrors of present-day warfare are accentuated by the German program of hunting ships of commerce with submarines. Under the long-established rules of war, when a belligerent seizes an enemy ship it has the right to sink her; but if on board there are goods destined from one neutral to another, the country that sinks her is required to give compensation for those neutral goods. Further, the belligerent ship that sinks a prize is expected to take off the crew of the prize first, and not sacrifice their lives.

But it is now declared that the German submarines will not be able to care for the crews of captured ships. In one case at least the crew was merely given time to get overboard into small boats; then the ship was torpedoed and sent to the bottom, and the flock of little boats left to take their chances with the seas. This is unavoidable when submarines are sent commerce-destroying; but it adds a new horror to war in a day in which effort has been directed to mitigating those horrors.

The multiplying difficulties of carrying on business of any kind in the face of the war conditions increase every day the danger of extending the war area and involving countries heretofore apparently safe. Seemingly, too, the belligerents are using all ingenuity, each to make the other appear as the aggressor and offender. The doings of the past month have given the war a more menacing look, from the standpoint of nations not yet engaged, than ever before.

**CRIME, NOT WARFARE**

Presumptive proof that the man who attempted to destroy the railroad bridge at the Vanceboro boundary line between the United States and Canada is not an officer of the German army, as he pretends, is that the German army would no more countenance an act like his, under the circumstances, than it would countenance his walking into a private house in Canada and shooting down an unarmed citizen there.

By no possible construction of international law or treaty could it be held that Van Horn was conducting war against Canada, and therefore committing a justifiable act of belligerency rather than a criminal destruction of private property and potential murder in so far as his crime was intended to plunge a train through the trestle and take the lives of non-combatants.

Whether the crime was committed on Canadian soil or on American soil there can be no real question of Van Horn's military status or political rights. He has none. The questions to be determined are whether he is to be punished under the law of the United States, if the act of which he is guilty was committed on this side of the line, or under the laws of Canada, if it was committed on the other side. And if his crime had cost human life, Canadian or American, there would be no question in either country—that there would be none in his own—that he should swing from the gallows.

**NEW YORK AN EXAMPLE**

New York city is facing a grave financial situation. Ever since the consolidation of the boroughs into the present greater city, extravagance has run riot. The municipal debt is now rather higher than the public debt of the United States. The annual budget is about \$200,000,000, or one-fifth that of the Federal Government. Indeed, if the postal appropriation be left out of consideration—for it is in fact paid by the earnings of the department—the New York city budget is just about one-fourth that of the United States Government.

The condition grows out of the rule of the city by a legislature that does not represent the city alone, but the State. The New York World makes the startling statement that two-thirds of the city expenses are fixed for it by the legislature at Albany, so that they cannot be trimmed even if an economical administration at the city hall should so desire. As a result, new forms of taxation are being planned by the present city administration, which with no responsibility has inherited the fearful burden.

New York's position suggests some reflections on the relations between Washington and the nation. Congress makes the appropriations for Washington; but it has assumed, in consideration of that privilege, the obligation to pay half of them. There are people who would like to undo this relationship, and leave Congress free to appropriate, without having the responsibility to pay any fixed share. The results, sooner or later, would be likely to parallel pretty closely those in New York.

It is a dangerously easy business, this of spending other people's money. It is especially tempting when there is the excuse of providing political jobs; and that excuse would exist here. New York is beginning to clamor seriously for the privilege of real home rule, and the development of its financial affairs in recent years surely justifies the demand. As matters stand now, nobody whom New York can reach and call to account is quite responsible for what it does.

Under a governmental scheme which divides the fiscal burden, Congress has given Washington a wise administration at least in regard to the imposition of a great municipal debt. This city has a debt so small as to be negligible, and is in sight of a surplus in its revenues that will before many years pay the debt. There is not another city of comparable size in the land that is so fortunate a posture as concerns its debt. Yet New York and Washington are in many ways entitled to be compared. Each has been practically rebuilt, on bigger and more generous lines in the last generation. Each has faced the necessity of living up to its position in the world. The one has accomplished this without incurring a vast debt or breaking down its credit; the other has brought the second municipality of the world to the verge of financial disaster.

No legislative authority is good enough to be trusted with ruling a community to which it is not responsible. Albany is not responsible to New York and it doesn't have to pay New York's bills. The results are to be seen in the present state of affairs there. Congress is responsible, on the fiscal side at least, for Washington; it pays. There is a vast difference.

**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

The annual gathering of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States is opening in Washington today. Never has there been, since this organization was founded, an occasion when wider opportunity of usefulness was presented by the men who may be regarded as speaking with some authority the business sentiment of the nation. It is a time when extraordinary conditions prevail, and when therefore extraordinary measures may be justified. To only a less extent than the countries actually in war, is the United

States compelled to adopt unusual methods to conserve and consolidate its interests. The world is only a community, and what affects one-half of it concerns the other half only in a somewhat different way. The unprecedented commercial and financial conditions, the startling measures that Germany, England and the other belligerent powers have been forced to adopt, all enforce the determination that regular rules and economic laws are suspended for the time being. Chaos would prevail if somewhere there were not a powerful guiding influence to direct and aid. It is particularly important that political differences should be relegated at such a time, and that as far as possible a united effort be made to meet the conditions that face the world and the country.

The Chamber of Commerce of the United States is qualified to emphasize the need for such a solidarity of national policy and effort. Its session will result in much good if it shall be able to impress the public that patriotism of the broadest, most intelligent sort, not factionism, class interest or political advantage, is to be the guiding thought of the whole business community. And it is fairly to be expected that such a policy will rule.

**THE PLUCKING BOARD**

In passing the amendment to abolish the plucking board of the navy, the House has done a piece of work that will be pretty certain to be indorsed by the Senate, and very sure of approval by the country. It has long been past understanding that naval authorities should, on the one hand, foment alarm about the short supply of naval officers that could be brought into service in case of war, and on the other sustain such an instrumentality as the plucking board, which seemed to have particular talent for forcing good officers into retirement, and keeping others scared half to death.

The case of Capt. T. M. Potts, who was plucked by the board for inefficiency, and who, by a particularly gallant and efficient display of seamanship, a few days later saved the ship from whose command he had not yet been released, brought the evils of the plucking board sharply to public attention.

Then there was the case of Colonel Perkins of the Marine Corps, who was given the alternative of retiring or being retired on the charge that he was insane. He naturally enough asked to be retired. Then a fight was started in his behalf, and it seems pretty completely demonstrated that there was no justification whatever for the charges against him, and that he was the victim of a very great injustice, to say nothing worse. The House bill, at any rate, includes a provision for his restoration to active service. Under the bill, also, a considerable list of men who have been plucked may be reinstated by the President on report of the Congressional committees.

**School Board Sidesteps Married Teacher's Case**

Despite the effort of Mrs. Carl Hellman and her friends to have her case brought before the Board of Education so that she may continue teaching, the board will not act this afternoon on the matter of allowing teachers who marry to continue in the service. Owing to the illness of Ernest H. Danahy, a member of the board, the consideration of "Rule 45," which automatically requires teachers upon marriage, this committee is not yet ready to report. Henry P. Blair and John R. Larnier are the other members of the committee.

The act, the new regulations of the board, will relate to the case of Mrs. Hellman, who is understood to be in conference with board members. It is understood, before any legal action is taken.

**Attacked in Alley By Two Colored Men**

Walter Goldmacher, twenty-five years old, of 1017 Ten street northwest, was treated at the Emergency Hospital today for contusions about the face and head. He told the police he was set upon by two unidentified colored men as he was passing through the alley bounded by Ninth and Tenth streets, Northwest, at nine o'clock last evening. Goldmacher declared that the assault was unprovoked.

**Architects Here Plan For Acquiring Clubhouse**

Plans for acquiring a new clubhouse were outlined before the members of the Washington Architectural Club last night by President Arthur L. Blakeslee, who is chairman of the committee authorized to ascertain the sentiment among Washington architects for a permanent clubhouse. Mr. Blakeslee explained that the need of a club for architects, artists, sculptors, designers, and those of similar professions was urgent. The Architectural Club also outlined plans for an exhibit in the Corcoran Art Gallery early next fall.

**Boy Tramps to Leesburg To Find His Pet Dog**

Thirteen-year-old William A. Smith, of 264 Wisconsin avenue northwest, for whom a search has been in progress since he disappeared from his home early Monday morning, has been located at the home of relatives in Leesburg, Va. Young Smith had tramped to Leesburg to find his pet dog, which he had lost several weeks ago. His parents of the boy were unable to tell whether their son's journey had met with success or not.

**PROGRAM (For Today and Tomorrow.)**

Meeting of fraternal, social and other organizations of the National Capital. Together with a brief tabulation of the most important events of the day and tomorrow, and attractions at various places, the program of the day and tomorrow is given. The Sunday issue of The Times presents a program of events for the ensuing week.

**Today.**

Masonic—Washington Centennial, No. 14, 10 a. m. No. 28, King Solomon, No. 21, East Gate, No. 20, Columbia, No. 15, and Brightwood, No. 8, Royal Arch Masons; Potomac, No. 10, Royal Arch Masons; Arlington, No. 10, Eastern Star.

Knights of Pythias—Mount Vernon, No. 5, 8 p. m. No. 6, Encampment, No. 10, 8 p. m. No. 11, 8 p. m. No. 12, 8 p. m. No. 13, 8 p. m. No. 14, 8 p. m. No. 15, 8 p. m. No. 16, 8 p. m. No. 17, 8 p. m. No. 18, 8 p. m. No. 19, 8 p. m. No. 20, 8 p. m. No. 21, 8 p. m. No. 22, 8 p. m. No. 23, 8 p. m. No. 24, 8 p. m. No. 25, 8 p. m. No. 26, 8 p. m. No. 27, 8 p. m. No. 28, 8 p. m. No. 29, 8 p. m. No. 30, 8 p. m. No. 31, 8 p. m. No. 32, 8 p. m. No. 33, 8 p. m. No. 34, 8 p. m. No. 35, 8 p. m. No. 36, 8 p. m. No. 37, 8 p. m. No. 38, 8 p. m. No. 39, 8 p. m. No. 40, 8 p. m. No. 41, 8 p. m. No. 42, 8 p. m. No. 43, 8 p. m. No. 44, 8 p. m. No. 45, 8 p. m. No. 46, 8 p. m. No. 47, 8 p. m. No. 48, 8 p. m. No. 49, 8 p. m. No. 50, 8 p. m. No. 51, 8 p. m. No. 52, 8 p. m. No. 53, 8 p. m. No. 54, 8 p. m. No. 55, 8 p. m. No. 56, 8 p. m. No. 57, 8 p. m. No. 58, 8 p. m. No. 59, 8 p. m. No. 60, 8 p. m. No. 61, 8 p. m. No. 62, 8 p. m. No. 63, 8 p. m. No. 64, 8 p. m. No. 65, 8 p. m. No. 66, 8 p. m. No. 67, 8 p. m. No. 68, 8 p. m. No. 69, 8 p. m. No. 70, 8 p. m. No. 71, 8 p. m. No. 72, 8 p. m. No. 73, 8 p. m. No. 74, 8 p. m. No. 75, 8 p. m. No. 76, 8 p. m. No. 77, 8 p. m. No. 78, 8 p. m. No. 79, 8 p. m. No. 80, 8 p. m. No. 81, 8 p. m. No. 82, 8 p. m. No. 83, 8 p. m. No. 84, 8 p. m. No. 85, 8 p. m. No. 86, 8 p. m. No. 87, 8 p. m. No. 88, 8 p. m. No. 89, 8 p. m. No. 90, 8 p. m. No. 91, 8 p. m. No. 92, 8 p. m. No. 93, 8 p. m. No. 94, 8 p. m. No. 95, 8 p. m. No. 96, 8 p. m. No. 97, 8 p. m. No. 98, 8 p. m. No. 99, 8 p. m. No. 100, 8 p. m.

Meeting, Chamber of Commerce of the United States, large hall room, New Willard, 8 p. m. No. 10, 8 p. m. No. 11, 8 p. m. No. 12, 8 p. m. No. 13, 8 p. m. No. 14, 8 p. m. No. 15, 8 p. m. No. 16, 8 p. m. No. 17, 8 p. m. No. 18, 8 p. m. No. 19, 8 p. m. No. 20, 8 p. m. No. 21, 8 p. m. No. 22, 8 p. m. No. 23, 8 p. m. No. 24, 8 p. m. No. 25, 8 p. m. No. 26, 8 p. m. No. 27, 8 p. m. No. 28, 8 p. m. No. 29, 8 p. m. No. 30, 8 p. m. No. 31, 8 p. m. No. 32, 8 p. m. No. 33, 8 p. m. No. 34, 8 p. m. No. 35, 8 p. m. No. 36, 8 p. m. No. 37, 8 p. m. No. 38, 8 p. m. No. 39, 8 p. m. No. 40, 8 p. m. No. 41, 8 p. m. No. 42, 8 p. m. No. 43, 8 p. m. No. 44, 8 p. m. No. 45, 8 p. m. No. 46, 8 p. m. No. 47, 8 p. m. No. 48, 8 p. m. No. 49, 8 p. m. No. 50, 8 p. m. No. 51, 8 p. m. No. 52, 8 p. m. No. 53, 8 p. m. No. 54, 8 p. m. No. 55, 8 p. m. No. 56, 8 p. m. No. 57, 8 p. m. No. 58, 8 p. m. No. 59, 8 p. m. No. 60, 8 p. m. No. 61, 8 p. m. No. 62, 8 p. m. No. 63, 8 p. m. No. 64, 8 p. m. No. 65, 8 p. m. No. 66, 8 p. m. No. 67, 8 p. m. No. 68, 8 p. m. No. 69, 8 p. m. No. 70, 8 p. m. No. 71, 8 p. m. No. 72, 8 p. m. No. 73, 8 p. m. No. 74, 8 p. m. No. 75, 8 p. m. No. 76, 8 p. m. No. 77, 8 p. m. No. 78, 8 p. m. No. 79, 8 p. m. No. 80, 8 p. m. No. 81, 8 p. m. No. 82, 8 p. m. No. 83, 8 p. m. No. 84, 8 p. m. No. 85, 8 p. m. No. 86, 8 p. m. No. 87, 8 p. m. No. 88, 8 p. m. No. 89, 8 p. m. No. 90, 8 p. m. No. 91, 8 p. m. No. 92, 8 p. m. No. 93, 8 p. m. No. 94, 8 p. m. No. 95, 8 p. m. No. 96, 8 p. m. No. 97, 8 p. m. No. 98, 8 p. m. No. 99, 8 p. m. No. 100, 8 p. m.

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